

COVID Fresh Start Q&A

COVID Fresh Start Exception to TBR Policy 2.03.01.01 Questions:

- What population of students qualify for COVID Fresh Start?
 - A student who was enrolled in one of the following semesters Spring 2020, Summer 2020, Fall 2020, Spring 2021 or Summer 2021 and were not successful, resulting in a missed semester, can request COVID Fresh Start **BEGINNING WITH THE SPRING 2022 TERM**. The student can make the request during their first semester of return.

- What are the parameters for current students for using Covid Fresh Start (CFS)?
 - Current students, who have been continuing since they began/returned, are not eligible. A student must have a separation from the institution in order to qualify, the exception just removes the 4 years of separation required. If a student was attending at any point from Spring 2020 through Summer 2021 and stopped/withdrew, they can request Covid Fresh Start for only those semesters, where grades of "F" were earned (or "D" when a "C" or better is required for the major).

- Must a student provide documentation to show they were impacted by COVID to qualify for COVID Fresh Start?
 - No. During Spring 2020 through Summer 2021, all lives were touched in some way or another by COVID, documentation is not required to justify the exact need.

- Is there a limit to what courses a student can receive a Fresh Start for?
 - If a student was attending at any point from Spring 2020 through Summer 2021 and stopped/withdrew, they can request COVID Fresh Start, where grades of "F" were earned (or "D" when a "C" or better is required for the major). This would include any coursework taken prior to Spring 2020 so long as they were enrolled during COVID and stopped out/withdrew and now want to return.

- Will it retract or prevent probation status preemptively?
 - Academic Standing will be updated once Covid Fresh Start is awarded.

- Must they ask for it, or can we blanket process it?
 - Students must initiate the request.

- Does this exception only pertain to institutional credit or transfer credit as well?
 - Just as Academic Fresh Start will exclude transfer credits, COVID Fresh Start will operate the same as long as there was separation from all collegiate institutions and the other parameters are met.

- Will the GPA be used for the current TN Promise or TN Reconnect student aid requirements?
 - No, just as Academic Fresh Start does not impact financial aid funding, neither does COVID Fresh Start.

- Will the GPA be able to retroactively help students who have lost TNP/TNR/Hope/etc.?
 - No, just as Academic Fresh Start does not impact financial aid funding, neither does COVID Fresh Start

- Will this work with the TELS appeals? Automatically or will they have to do both? or one then the other?
 - No, just as Academic Fresh Start does not impact financial aid funding, neither does COVID Fresh Start.

- Can we explore which other schools/partners would honor the COVID Fresh Start?
 - Per TBR Policy, all TBR institutions are to accept the CFS upon transfer.

- The current Academic Fresh Start has removed the academic plan component, will the COVID Fresh Start bring that back?
 - While an accurate, updated academic plan is always an important component to advising, a copy will not be required in order for COVID Fresh Start to be reviewed.

- If student was already granted Academic Fresh Start, can they benefit from a COVID Fresh Start?
 - While a student who previously received Academic Fresh Start, may also benefit from COVID Fresh Start, the policy states "The student may be granted a Fresh Start only once."